1	2	3	4	5
2.	Kollam Bypass	47	13.14	Land acquisition completed. Construction completed in 4.78 km
3.	Alappuzha Bypass	47	7.58	Land acquisition completed. Construction completed in 3.73 km and in progress in balance portion
4.	Thiruvananthapuram—Neyyatinkara Bypass	47	44.253	Land acquisition completed in 25.90 km and in progres in 5.47 km. Construction completed in 22.633 km
5.	Thalassery-Mahe Bypass	17	18.03	Land acquisition completed in 9.142 km. Construction not taken up
6.	Koilandy deviation Bypass	17	11.213	Land acquisition completed. Construction not taken up
7.	Thripunithra Bypass	49	9.00	Land acquisition in 3.75 km in progress. Construction not taken up
8.	Muvattupuzha Bypass	49	4.58	Not taken up
9.	Kothamangalam Bypass	49	3.15	Not taken up
10.	Aattingal Bypass	47	—	Not taken up
11.	Kodungallur Bypass	17	—	Not taken up

(d) It is too early to indicate the likely date of completion of the above bypasses.

Indian fishermen in Pakistani Jails

*340. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have not honoured its promise of rescuing 406 Indian fishermen from Pakistani jails;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Pakistani Marine Guards have seized 10 more boats and 60 fishermen from Gujarat;

(c) whether some of the fishermen are languishing in Pakistani jails for over three years; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to rescue those Indian fishermen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (d) As per available information,

there are approximately 900 Indian fishermen in Pakistan's custody who have been detained by Pak authorities between October, 2003 and December, 2004. The fishermen who were arrested earlier were released by the Government of Pakistan between February and November, 2003.

Out of these 900, 266 fishermen have been granted consular access in March, 2004. Pakistan Government has recently indicated its readiness to release these 266 fishermen. Government is in constant touch with the Government of Pakistan for early consular access for the remaining Indian fishermen.

Government has consistently taken up the issue of release and repatriation of detained fishermen with the Government of Pakistan through diplomatic channels. During the Foreign Secretary level talks held in New Delhi on June 27-28, 2004, it was agreed to release all the apprehended fishermen in each other's custody and to put in place a mechanism for the return of unintentionally transgressing fishermen and their boats from the high seas without apprehending them. This issue was also raised during the meeting between the Foreign Ministers of the two countries in New Delhi on September, 5-6, 2004 and again during the recent visit of the Prime Minister of Pakistan to New Delhi on November 23-24, 2004.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Promotion of coir industry

2210. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government have taken to promote coir industry through Coir Board in non-traditional zone;

(b) the steps taken to maximize husk collection in non-traditional zone; and

(c) whether Government propose to merge Coconut Development Board and Coir Board to maximize husk collection in general and non-traditional zone in particular?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Steps taken to promote the coir industry in the non-traditional areas *viz.*, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Goa, Maharashtra, Assam, Tripura, Pondicherry, Lakshadweep, West Bengal